

## **Sponsor Criteria Sheet—2006 Primary and General Election Debates**

- I. The Citizens Clean Elections Commission (CCEC) is seeking organizations to sponsor professional, fair and nonpartisan candidate debates for legislative and statewide offices. The format for conducting the debates is set forth by the Sponsor in its application, as confirmed or modified by the CCEC.

II. Sponsor Requirements

The CCEC will need to know no later than May 1, 2006, for the primary election, and June 1, 2006, for the general election, the following debate information:

- Debate date (It is important to keep major dates such as other scheduled debates in mind while proceeding, as scheduling debates during these times may preclude candidates from attending.) For the primary no debate shall be scheduled to be held before July 11, 2006 and no later than August 10, 2006. For the general no debate shall be scheduled to be held before September 19, 2006 and no later than October 5, 2006.
- Debate starting and stopping times
- Debate location
- Publicity plan (print, radio, television, etc.)
- Debate Moderator

The Sponsor shall be responsible for the following:

1. **Debate Site:** Select debate sites with handicap accessibility, perceived political neutrality, adequate structural and acoustical facility, and location with the greatest ease of public accessibility. Seating shall be adequate for expected public attendance. Each district shall be the site of its own debate.
2. **Invitations to Candidates:** The Sponsor shall provide 2 written notices to invite candidates to participate in the debate. The notice shall include an RSVP card for the candidate to confirm or reject participation, and for the RSVP card to be returned to the Sponsor by a certain date.
3. **Advertising:** Audience members will be invited to participate in the debate process and the Sponsor will be responsible for advertising the debates to the general public. The advertising may consist of newspaper ads, direct mailings, etc. as the sponsor sees fit.
4. **Debate Moderator:** The Sponsor shall select an experienced and non-partisan moderator. The CCEC reserves the right to veto a moderator who lacks expertise or is perceived to be partisan. The moderators shall be selected based on their experience, impartiality and ability to moderate the debates in a nonpartisan and fair manner. The Sponsor shall provide a training class for all moderators prior to the debate. The names of the moderators shall be submitted to the CCEC.

5. **Recordings:** The CCEC shall record candidate debates by audiotape or videotape. If agreed upon in advance, individual Sponsors may record candidate debates in a format compatible with the CCEC recordings. Should the Sponsor record a debate, the Sponsor shall ensure that the candidates and moderator have a microphone so that the debate is recorded and the audience can hear the debate. The Sponsor shall send the CCEC a copy of the recording no later than two weeks following the debate. The audio/video tape shall be a standard-sized audio/video tape. Further, the Sponsor shall ensure that the recording is clear and audible; and the recording captures the discourse of each of the debate participants and the moderator.
6. **Post-Debate Review and Analysis:** The Sponsor must agree to assist the CCEC in evaluating the operation and effectiveness of the debate process.